REMARKS

The newly added claims are supported in the description, for example, as follows:

Claims 59 - 61: paragraph 5 on page 6 of the specification describes a method of diagnosing a microbial infection in a subject by contacting a sample from the subject with a conjugate comprising an organic carrier and a purified lipid cell-wall component. There is also a reference on page 25, paragraphs 2 and 5 and on page 26, paragraph 1 to the development and production of diagnostic tests for the confirmation of mycobacterial cells in samples based on the detection of antibodies against purified lipid cell wall components.

Example 3 on pages 158 - 189 *inter alia* describes a method for detecting anti-mycolic acids antibodies in patients' sera by contacting this sera with mycolic acids and detecting reactions. More particularly, in paragraph 3.2.17 on page 178 the screening of patient samples by means of an ELISA to detect the presence of antibodies to mycolic acids is described. The results of the screening are shown in Figure 29. In paragraph 3.2.18 on pages 179 and 180 a composition ELISA was used to detect the presence of antibodies to mycolic acids <u>and</u> to confirm that the antibodies detected were in fact specific for mycolic acids. The results of the competition ELISA are shown in Figure 30. In paragraph 3.3.2 on pages 185 and 186 the results of these tests on human sera are discussed.

On page 15 reference is made to the purified lipid cell-wall component being purified mycolic acid or a mixture of purified mycolic acids or a derivative from a bacterium or from a synthetic source.

Claims 62 - 64: a method of forming a detection means for detecting anti-mycolic acids antibodies in the form of a solid phase, for example, an ELISA plate, coated with mycolic acids is described in paragraphs 7 and 8 on page 18. There is also a reference on page 25 in paragraphs 2 and 5 and on page 26 in paragraph 1 to the development and production of diagnostic tests for the confirmation of mycobacterial cells in samples based on the detection of antibodies against purified lipid cell wall components.

Example 2 describes the production and use of ELISA plates to detect the presence of antibodies to purified mycolic acids. In paragraph 2.1.3.5 on pages 133 and 134 the reagents used in the production of an ELISA plate are discussed. In paragraph 2.2.14 on pages 146 and 147 a method of preparing detection means in the form of ELISA plates for detecting the presence of anti-mycolic acids antibodies in rat sera is described. Example 3 also describes the production and use of ELISA plates to detect the presence of antibodies to purified mycolic acids. In paragraph 3.1.3.4 on pages 161 and 162 the reagents used in the production of ELISA plates are discussed. In paragraph 3.2.17 on pages 178 and 179 a method for preparing detection means in the form of ELISA plates for detecting the presence of anti-mycolic acids antibodies in human sera samples are described.

Again, on page 15 reference is made to the purified lipid cell-wall component being a purified mycolic acid or mixture of purified mycolic acids or a derivative from a bacterium or from a synthetic source.

An early examination on the merits of the above claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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